

BEST AVAILABLE COPY
THIRD COLLEGE EDITION

Webster's New World Dictionary™

OF AMERICAN ENGLISH

VICTORIA NEUFELD

Editor in Chief

DAVID B. GURALNIK

Editor in Chief Emeritus



Webster's New World
Cleveland & New York

ISBN 0-13-040314-X (paperback)
0-13-040346-1 (hardcover)
0-13-040319-X (international)

plasmolysis / platform

1034

and no definite size, esp. the vegetative stage of a myxomycete 2 any of a genus (*Plasmodium*) of unicellular sporozoans found in red blood corpuscles, including the parasites that cause malaria: **plas-mo-lysis** (plaz mō' lī'sis) *n.* [ModL: see PLASMO- & -LYSIS] *Biol.* a shrinking of the protoplasm of a living cell due to loss of water by osmosis

plas-mo-lyze (plaz'mō līz') *vt., vi. -lyzed', -lyzing* to subject to or undergo plasmolysis

Plas-sey (plā'sē) *village* in West Bengal, India, north of Calcutta: scene of a decisive victory (1757) by which the British established their rule in India

plast (plast) [*< Gr plastos, formed < plassein, to form: see PLASTIC*] combining form a unit of protoplasm (*chromoplast*)

plaster (plas'ter, plās'ter) *n.* [ME < OE *plaster* & OFr *platre*, both <

LL *plastrum*, for L *emplastrum*. < Gr *emplastron*, plaster < *emplassein*, to daub over < *en*, on, in + *plassein*, to form: see PLASTIC] 1 a pasty mixture, as of lime or gypsum, sand, and water, which hardens on drying; for coating walls, ceilings, and partitions 2 **PLASTER OR PARIS** 3 a pasty preparation spread on cloth and applied to the body, used medicinally as a curative or counterirritant — *vt.* 1. to cover, smear, overlay, etc. with or as with plaster: 2 to apply or affix like a plaster to *plaster* posters on walls 3 to make lie smooth and flat 4 to apply plaster of Paris as a treatment [5 (Colloq.) to affect or strike with force — **plasterer** *n.* — **plastery** *adj.*

plaster-board (bōrd') *n.* thin board consisting of a core of plaster of Paris covered with heavy paper, used in wide sheets as a base or substitute for plaster in walls, partitions, etc.

plaster cast 1 a copy or mold of a statue or other object, cast in plaster of Paris 2 *Surgery* a rigid cast to hold a fractured bone in place and prevent movement, made by wrapping the limb or part with a bandage soaked in wet plaster of Paris

plas-tered (plas'terd) *adj.* [pp. of PLASTER: orig. military slang] [Slang] intoxicated; drunk

plas-ter-ing (plas'ter īg) *n.* 1 the act or process of applying plaster 2 a coating of plaster as on a wall

plaster of Paris [from use of gypsum from Montmartre in Paris in its manufacture] a heavy white powder, calcined gypsum, which, when mixed with water, forms a thick paste that sets quickly; used for casts, moldings, statuary, etc.

plaster-work (plas'tor, wörk') *n.* a finish or decorative work done by plastering

plastic (plas'tik) *adj.* [L *plasticus* < Gr *plastikos* < *plassein*; to form, prob. < IE base **plā-*, flat, to smooth out] 1 molding or shaping matter; formative 2 *a* capable of being molded or shaped *b* made of a plastic 3 in a flexible or changing state; impressionable 4 dealing with molding or modeling, as in sculpture **5 a* characterized by exhibiting superficiality or a lack of originality; dehumanized; mass-produced /the plastic world of television advertising/ *b* hypocritically false or synthetic; phony /a plastic smile/ **6* (Colloq.) of or designating a credit card or credit cards; or credit based on their use /plastic money/ 7 *Biol.* capable of readily changing or adapting in form, physiology, or behavior; 8 *Med. a* of or helpful in the renewal of destroyed or injured tissue *b* that can be so renewed 9 *Physics* capable of continuous and permanent change of shape in any direction without breaking apart *n.* 1 any of various nonmetallic compounds, synthetically produced, usually from organic compounds by polymerization, which can be molded into various forms and hardened, or formed into pliable sheets or films, fibers, flexible or hard foams, etc. for commercial use **2 some thing made of plastic* 3 (Colloq.) a credit card or credit cards, or credit based on their use — **SYN.** PLIABLE — **plasti-cally** *adv.* — **plastic-tic** (-tis'ik) *adj.*

plastic (plas'tik) [*< Gr plastikos*; see prec.] combining form forming adjectives 1 forming, developing (*homoplastic*) 2 of or relating to (a given noun ending in *-PLASM*, *-PLAST*, or *-PLASTY*) /*rhinoplastic*/

plastic arts 1 arts producing works or effects that are three-dimensional, as sculpture or ceramics 2 arts producing works to be viewed, as sculpture, architecture, painting, and the graphic arts, as distinguished from those involving writing or composing, as music or literature

plastic bomb a puttylike substance containing explosives, that will adhere to walls, etc. and is detonated by fuse or electricity

Plas-ti-cine (plas'ti sēn') [PLASTIC + *-INE*] trademark for an oil-base modeling paste, used as a substitute for clay or wax. Also *plas-ti-cene* (-sēn')

plas-ti-cize (plas'ti siz') *vt., vi. -cized', -cizing* to make or become plastic — **plastic-i-za-tion** *n.*

plas-ti-cizer (-sīz'ər) *n.* any of various liquid or solid organic substances added to plastics, paints, etc. to modify viscosity, flexibility, or strength

plastic memory the tendency of certain plastics, after being deformed to resume their original form when heated

plastic surgery surgery dealing with the repair or restoration of injured, deformed, or destroyed parts of the body, esp. by transferring tissue, as skin or bone, from other parts or from another individual — **plastic surgeon**

plas-tid (plas'tid) *n.* [Ger *plastiden* (pl.) < Gr *plastides*, pl. of *plastis*, fem. of *plastes*, molder < *plassein*, to form: see PLASTIC] any of several specialized protoplasmic structures occurring in the cytoplasm of some plant cells, in which starch, oil, protein, pigment, etc. are stored

plas-tique (plas tek') *n.* [Fr.] 1 **PLASTIC BOMB** 2 the technique or action of making very slow movements in dancing or pantomime, like a statue in motion

plas-ti-sol (plas'ti sôl', -sôl') *n.* [PLASTI(C) + *sol*'] a liquid dispersion

consisting of very small particles of resin in a plasticizer; it is heated, the mass first gels and then fuses to become a thermoplastic used as a coating, for molding, etc.

plas-to-gene (plas'tō jēn') *n.* [*< Gr plastos, formed (see PLASTIC) + -gene, -GEN*] a separate genetic particle associated with, and influencing the activity of, the plastids

plas-tron (plas'trōn, -trōn') *n.* [Fr < *piastre* < *piastra*; see PLATE] 1 a metal breastplate worn under a coat of mail 2 a padded protector worn over the chest by fencers 3 a trimming like a dog's collar worn on the front of a woman's dress 4 a starched shirt-front

plas-ti-city (plas'tētē) [*< Gr -plastia < plastos, formed < plassein; see PLASTIC*] combining form plastic surgery involving a specific part of the body, source of tissue, or purpose /*rhinoplasty*, *eloplasty*, *neoplasty*/

plat (plat) [*plā*] *pl.* **plat**'s combining form **PLAS-TI-CAL**

plat' (plat) *vt.* **plat'ed**, *plat'ing* [ME *platten*, var. of *platte*] *n.* [Dial.] a plait or braid

plat' (plat) [*n.*] var. of *plot*, infl. by ME, flat < OFr: see PLATE] 1 a small piece of ground: 2 a map or plan, esp. of a piece of land divided into building lots. — *vt.* **plat'ed**, *plat'ing* to make a map or plan

plat (plat) combining form **PLAT-IC**

plat' (plat) [*abbr.*] 1 plateau, 2 Mil. platoon

Plata (plātā), Río de la (ré dō de lá) estuary of the Paraná & Uruguay rivers, between Argentina & Uruguay: c. 200 mi. (320 km.) long

Pla-tæja (pla tē'ā) ancient city in Boeotia, EC Greece: site of the battle (479 B.C.) in which the Greeks defeated the Persians: also *Plataea* (-ē)

platan or **plat-an** (plat'ān) *n.* **PLANET**

plat du jour (plat dū zhōr') *pl.* **plat's du jour** (plat') [Fr, dish of the day] the featured dish of the day in a restaurant

plate (plat) *n.* [OFr, flat object < fem. of *plat*, flat < VL *platia*] 1 Gr *platys*, broad, flat; see PLATE] 1 a smooth, flat, relatively thin piece of metal or other material 2 a sheet of metal made by bending, rolling, or casting 3 *a* any of the thin sheets of metal; *b* pieces used in one kind of armor (*plate armor*) *b* such armor 4 *a* a flat piece of metal on which an engraving is, or is to be, cut 5 *a* impression taken from the engraved metal 6 *a* print of a wood, lithograph, etc., esp. when used in a book 6 a full-page book illustration of any kind, printed on paper of a stock different from that of the text 7 *a* dishes, utensils, etc. of silver or gold, collectively metal dishes, utensils, etc., or any metallic ware, plated with gold 8 a shallow dish, usually circular, from which food is eaten 9 silverware 10 the food in a dish; a course /a fruit plate/ 11 feeding service for an individual at a meal /dinner at twenty dollars a plate/ 12 a dish or other container passed in churches, etc. for donations of money 13 *a* a prize, orig. a gold or silver cup, given to the winner of a race or contest *b* a contest, esp. a horse race, for such a prize rather than for stakes (also called *plate race*) 14 *PTR* distilled thin cut of beef from the forequarter; just below the short rib 15 *beer*, illus. 16 *Anat.*, *Zool.* thin layer, plate, or scale, as of bone, horny tissue; lamina; scute 17 *Archit.* a horizontal wooden joist that supports the trusses or rafters of a roof 18 *Baseball*: short for HOME PLATE 19 *Dentistry* *a* that part of an artificial denture which fits to the mouth and holds the teeth; *b* [often pl.] loosely, a full set of false teeth 20 *Elec.* ANODE (senses 1, & 2) 21 *Phila.* 1 an impression surface from which a sheet of postage stamps is printed 22 *Photog.* a sheet of glass, metal, etc., coated with a film sensitive to light, upon which the image is formed 23 *Printing*: a casting or printing from, made from a mold of set type or from a negative prepared as by photocomposition — *vt.* **plat'ed**, *plat'ing* to overlay or coat with gold, silver, tin, etc. by a mechanical, chemical, or electrical process 2 to cover, as with metal, plates for protection to make a printing plate of

plat-eau (pla tō') *n.* pl. **teaus'** or **-teaux'** (-tōz') [Fr < OFr *plat*, dim. < *plat*: see prec.] 1 an elevated tract of more or less level land; mesa 2 a period, level, etc. of relative stability or relatively little change, as can be shown by a flat extent on a graph 3 *a* a specific, a period in which an individual's learning rate does not improve *b* to become relatively stable or constant, as in plateaus

plate-block *Philately* a block of postage stamps with a serial number (plate number) in the margin

plat'ed (plat'ēd) *adj.* 1 covered or protected with plates; *b* *plated* 2 knitted of two kinds of yarn, one forming the face and the other the back 3 overlaid or coated with a metal, esp. a precious one, by a plating process /silver-plated/

plat'eful (plat'fūl) *n.* pl. **fuls** as much as a plate will hold

plat'e glass ground and polished, clear glass in thick sheets used for shop windows, mirrors, etc.

plat'et (plat'ēt) *n.* [PLATE + *-LET*] 1 any of certain round or nonnucleated disks, smaller than a red blood cell and containing hemoglobin, found in the blood of mammals and associated with the process of blood clotting 2 THROMBOCYTE (sense 1) 1973

plat'en (plat'ēn) *n.* [ME *platene* < OFr *platine*, flat plate, *platine*] *pl.* *plat'ens* 1 a flat metal plate; as that in a printing press which presses the paper against the inked type 2 *a* in typesetting, the roller against which the keys strike 3 *b* in printing, the roller against which the keys strike

plat'er (plat'ēr) *n.* 1 a person or thing that plates 2 *a* *plat'er* (plat'ēr) *n.* an inferior race horse

plat'e rail a shelflike molding along the upper part of a wall or fence for holding ornamental plates, etc.

plat'e tectonics Geol. the theory that the earth's surface consists of plates, or large crustal slabs, whose constant motion explains continental drift, mountain building, etc.

plat'form (plat'fōrm') *n.* [Fr *plate-forme*, lit., flat-form: see PLATE] 1 a raised horizontal surface of wood, stone, or metal

2) a raised stage or flooring or stage for performance of principles and policies, esp. designating a thick sole of cork, leather & shoe with such a sole.

plat-form bed a bed consisting of a mat or bologna, often with the space below enclosed

plat-form rocker a rocking chair that has a canopy base

plat-form scale(s) a weighing machine whatever is to be weighed

plat-form tennis PADDLE TENNIS

plat (plat), Sylvia 1932-63; U.S. poet

plat-ing (plat'ēng) *n.* 1 the act or procedure of plating 2 an external layer of metal plating, tin, etc.

plat-inic (pla tīn'ik) *adj.* of, like, or containing platinum

plat-inize (plat'ēn iz') *vt.* **plat-nized**, *-niz-ing* platinum — **plat-in-i-za-tion** *n.*

plat-in-o-cya-nine (plat'ēn o'sī'ē nīd') cyanide and another cyanide

plat-inoid (plat'ēn oid') *adj.* [PLATINUM + *oid*] 1 *Platin* (num., n.) an alloy of copper, nickel, electrical resistance coils, etc. 2 any nickel

plat-nous (plat'ēs as) *adj.* of, like, or containing platinum

plat-num (plat'ēn am) *n.* [ModL < Sp *platino*, metal plate, silver bar, silver] 1 silvery, malleable, ductile metallic element, symbol Pt, at. wt. 195.09, at. no. 75, bp. 1772°C, boil. pt. 3,827°C. — *adj.* [*It* plated, *copy*, awarded to the performer in disc, video, etc. which has registered as two million, or value, as \$1 greater number or value than gold

plat-num black a black powder of fine particles by reduction of platinum salts: synthesis

plat-num blonde 1 a girl or woman having natural or bleached hair 2 such a color

plat-num metal any of a group of ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, osmium

plat-tude (plat'ē tūd', -tyōōd') *n.* [*F. mille, by latitude, rectitude*] 1 a compass in speech or writing 2 a common platitude

plat-tu-di-nously *adv.* STUPID, *etc.* **plat-titude** is a trite remark or idiom, or momentous; a commonplace remark or idea; a truism is a statement whose utterance, therefore, seems superfluous which, though once fresh and forcible, wears through much repetition; bromide is especially dull, tiresome, or annoying

plat-ti-nize (plat'ē tōōd' n. 1, tyōōd') *vt.* write or speak platitudes

plat (plat') [G. *Platon*] c. 427-c. 343

plat-onic (pla tīn'ik, pla) *adj.* [*Plat* or characteristic of Plato or his philosophy] 1 impractical 2 [usually p.] designating between a man and a woman that is and without sexual activity — **plat-onic**

plat-onic year GREAT YEAR

plat-onism (plat'ēn iz'm) *n.* [ModL *p* of *Plato* or *his* school; esp.: the doctrine] are real insofar as they imitate realm of immutable essences constitute the world of essential reality; practice of platonic love — **plat-onist**

plat-onize (plat'ēn iz') *vt.* **plat-nized**, *-niz-ing*

plat, philosophize in a Platonic manner

plat-ton (pla tōōn') *n.* [Fr. *peloton*, *peloton*, a ball; see *PELLET*] 1 a military unit, or squad, or sections, normally unit; it is a subdivision of a company, like this/a platoon of police/ 3 Sport

(as the offensive and defensive squad substituting a single team — *vt.* 1 to divide on a platoon **2 Sports* to alternate

between two rookies in right field/ — *vt.* another player at a position 2 to play

plat-ton *sergeant* U.S. Army the senior platoon, equal in grade to a sergeant

plat-deutsch (plat'ē doich') *n.* [Ger *< platt*, lit.: flat (< OFr: see PLATE) + *deutsch*] the West German dialects of the Rhine

and the West German dialects of the Rhine

plat-eau (plat'ēō) [*< Fr Rivière Platte*, lit. central, Nebr. by the North Platte & flowing westward into the Missouri; 310 mi. (498 km.) long]

plat-ter (plat'ēr) *n.* [ME *platere* < Anglo-Norm. *platere*] 1 a large, shallow, oval, for

2 the circular, motor-driven surface of a record player

3 a graph record

National Park (plat) [after O. H.